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UKRAINIAN AND BRITISH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of education in the modern world. Education has become the leading power of the technological progress and thus of the whole development of the humanity. The United Kingdom has one of the best educational systems in the world. Unfortunately, Ukraine is not so good in this way, but we are on the right road and in the future we will have the same quality of education that is in the United Kingdom.

The task of our investigation is to compare Ukrainian and British educational system. There are many differences between our educational system and the United Kingdom and it's very important to know everything about it if we want to become better in the future.

Education in England is overseen by the United Kingdom's Department for Education and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Local government authorities are responsible for implementing policy for public education and state-funded schools at a local level.

The education system is divided into stages based upon age: Early Years Foundation Stage(ages 3–5), primary education (ages 5–11), secondary education (ages 11–18) and higher education (ages 18+).

From the age of 16 there is a two-year period of education known as "sixth form" or "college" which typically leads to A-level qualifications (similar to a high school diploma in some other countries), or a number of alternative qualifications such as BTEC, the International Baccalaureate or the Cambridge Pre-U.

British education helps to develop fully the abilities of individuals, for their own benefit and of society as a whole. Compulsory schooling takes place between the ages of 5 and 16, but some pupils remain at school for 2 years more, to prepare for further higher education. Post-school education is organized flexibly, to provide a wide range of opportunities for academic and vocational education and to continue studying through out life. Administration of state schools is decentralised. The department of education and science is responsible for national education policy, but it doesn't run any schools, it doesn't employ teachers, or prescribe curricular or textbooks. All schools are given a considerable amount of freedom. According to the law only one subject is compulsory. That is religious instruction [1].

Children receive preschool education under the age of 5 in nursery schools or in infant's classes in primary schools.

Most pupils receive free education funded from public funds and the small proportions attend wholly independent schools. Most independent schools are single-sex, but the number of mixed schools is growing.

Education within the maintained schools system usually comprises two stages: primary and secondary education. Primary schools are subdivided into infant schools (ages 5 - 7) and junior schools (ages 7- 11). Infant schools are informal and children are encouraged to read, write and make use of numbers and develop the creative abilities. Primary children do all their work with the same class teacher except for PE and music [3].

The junior stage lasts for four years. Children have set periods of arithmetic, reading, composition, history, geography, nature study and others. At this stage of schooling pupils were often placed in A, B, C and D streams according to their abilities. The most able children were put in the A stream, the least able in the D stream. Till recently most junior school children had to take the eleven-plus examination. It usually consisted of an arithmetic paper and an intelligence test.

According to the results of the exam children were sent to Grammar, Technical or Secondary modern schools.

So-called comprehensive schools began to appear after World War II. They are mixed schools which can provide education for over 1000 pupils. Ideally they provide all the courses given in Grammar, Technical and Secondary modern schools.

By the law all children must receive full-time education between the ages of 5 and 16. Formally each child can remain in school for further 2 or 3 years and continue his studies in the sixth form up to the age of 18 or 19. The course is usually subdivided into the lower 6 and the upper 6. The curriculum is narrowed to 5 subjects of which a pupil can choose 2 or 3.

The main examinations for secondary school pupils are general certificate of education (the GCE) exam and certificate of secondary education (the CSE) exam.

The GCE exam is held at two levels: ordinary level (O level) and advanced level (A level).

Candidates sit for O-level papers at 15 –16 years. GCE level is usually taken at the end of the sixth form. The CSE level exam is taken after 5 years of secondary education by the pupils who are of average abilities for their age.

At most schools the pupils have to wear a school uniform. This usually means a white blouse for girls (perhaps with a tie), with a dark-colored shirt and pullover. These colors may be grey, brown, navy blue, dark green or similar. Boys wear a shirt and the tie, dark trousers and dark colored pullovers.

Pupils of both sexes wear blazers—a kind of jacket – with the school badge on the pocket.

They often have to wear some kind of hat on the way to and from the school – caps for boys and berets or some other kinds of hat for girls. Shoes are usually black or brown and should be sensible – no high heels [2].

The system of higher education in Britain includes universities, colleges of education and advanced courses at various colleges. There are over 90 universities in GB. They are divided into three types: the old universities (Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh Universities), in the 19th century universities, such as London and Manchester universities, and the new universities. Some years ago there were also polytechnics. After graduating from polytechnic a student got a degree, but it was not a university degree. 31 former polytechnics were given university status in 1992.

A university usually consists of colleges. The departments of the colleges are organized into faculties. In the university students have a series of lectures, seminars, tutorials and laboratory classes. Lectures are given to large groups of students while seminars are much smaller than lectures. Lectures and seminars are all one hour in length, laboratory classes last 2 or 3 hours. The academic year divides into 3 terms. First two terms last for 24 weeks; the 3rd term is reserved for classes and examinations and lasts for six weeks. After three years of study a university graduate will leave with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts or Science. Student can continue to take his Master's Degree and then the Doctor's [1].

Ukrainian education has a lot in common with British education, but also there are some differences.

Education in Ukraine is given great attention by the government and a large number of facilities and institutions exist for the purpose of educating the population. The system of education in Ukraine extends right from pre-school to higher education.

The Ukrainian educational system is organized into five levels: preschool, primary, secondary, higher and post graduate education.

The system of secondary education in Ukraine includes primary forms and junior and senior secondary forms. Children usually go to school at the age of 6 or 7. There are some preschool institutions, like nursery schools or kindergartens, but they are not obligatory. Primary forms comprise 1 to 4 forms. Junior secondary forms comprise 5 to 9 forms. After the 9th form children pass state exams. They can enter technical schools of different types. Those who want to enter higher educational institutions should complete 10–11 forms. After 11 form students have to pass UPE exams and if they get good results, they can enter Institutions and Universities. Students can also enter higher educational institutions after graduating from specialized colleges or lyceums. They prepare students in different fields, whether the humanities or the sciences. Some of them are organized under the authorities of higher educational establishments.

The system of higher education is presented by universities, polytechnic institutes or specialized institutes. Universities offer a five-year course of study and usually have from six to twelve departments. Institutes train specialists for industry, agriculture and economy. Most of them have been conferred the status of Academy or University recently. Students are also offered postgraduate education and scientific research work. Nowadays due to the state of our national economy not many young people are engaged in the research work. But still in some fields of science there are outstanding discoveries and research papers.

Some universities and institutes have refresher courses. Recently a great number of private educational establishments have appeared. Some institutions have fee-paying groups or departments. The students may get education there at the same high level as in the state institutions.

Now we are to compare these two educational systems. The joint between them is that the education in Ukraine and the United Kingdom extends from pre-school to higher education. Also both Ukrainian and British children can get higher education after school in universities or other higher education establishments, but before it they have to pass an exams.

There are a lot of differences between these two educational systems. In Ukraine children start to go to school at age 6 or 7 year, while in Britain the start schooling at age 5. In our country pupils graduate school at age 17, while in Britain at age 18. Also in contradistinction to Ukrainian schools, in British pupils have to wear uniform and I think that it has a good influence on the quality of education. The main peculiarities of British education is that children can choose the subjects, which they I'd like to study and that at junior stage of schooling pupils are often placed in A, B, C and D streams according their abilities. The most able children were put in the A stream, the least able in the D stream [3].

Our Ukrainian system can use some good ideas and practical aiming of British education for better preparing children for their future life.

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